

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 TRSE-00 EA-06 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 SSO-00 IO-10 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 (ISO) W
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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4555

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, SN, JO

SUBJECT:VIETNAMESE EMBASSY ACCOUNTS

REFS: (A) AMMAN 3021 (B) STATE 102400 (C) STATE 109114

1. GOJ FONMIN SECRETARY-GENERAL HASSAN IBRAHIM HAS INFORMED US ALGERIAN EMBASSY ON BEHALF PRG, HAS REQUESTED GOJ THAT ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT BE ALLOWED ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERESTS AND PROPERTY OF FORMER RVN EMBASSY IN JORDAN. THE GOJ IS PLANNING ON ADDRESSING THE ALGERIAN REQUEST AT A CABINET MEETING ON EVENING SUNDAY, APRIL 11.

2. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE BLOCKED \$15,000 VIETNAMESE ACCOUNT WITH FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK IN AMMAN WHICH WE RECOMMENDED, AND DEPARTMENT AGREED, TO UNBLOCK (REFTELS A AND C).

3. WE HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION INFORMALLY WITH GOJ FONMIN IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN GOJ POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. WE INDICATED OUR INTEREST IN SEEING
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A) THAT RVN EMBASSY BE ABLE TO MEET REASONABLE

OPERATING EXPENSES (PARA 3 REFTEL B) WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MAKING FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ITS OUTSTANDING DEBTS AND ALSO B) THAT HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, I.E. THAT SOME FUNDS BE AVAILABLE (AS SEVERANCE PAY OR OTHERWISE) TO HELP DEFRAID SUBSISTENCE COSTS AND/OR TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF FORMER RVN DIPLOMATS AND FAMILIES WHO STILL REMAIN IN JORDAN.

4. WE INDICATED THAT ANY INFORMATION FROM GOJ WOULD BE MOST WELCOME A) REGARDING WHETHER GOJ OR ALGERIAN EMBASSY WOULD HAVE CONTROL OF THE BANK ACCOUNT; AND B) WHETHER FUNDS WOULD BE USED FOR LIQUIDATION OF EMBASSY BILLS AND FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES CONCERNING REMAINING VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. GOJ DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION AFTER GOJ DEVELOPS ITS POSITION ON ISSUE.

5. WE HAD HOPED TO AVOID JURISDICTIONAL QUESTION REGARDING VIETNAMESE ACCOUNT BUT GOJ HAS BECOME AWARE FUNDS ARE BLOCKED BECAUSE FNCB HAS NOT BE ABLE TO HONOR CHECKS DRAWN ON ACCOUNT. SECONDLY, ENTRY OF ALGERIANS INTO SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATES THE PICTURE, PARTICULARLY REGARDING FUTURE STATUS OF THE ACCOUNT. THIRDLY, GOJ HAS NOW ALSO ORDERED FNCB TO BLOCK FUNDS, PENDING RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER WHICH GOJ COMMITTEE NOW INVESTIGATING.

6. WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THAT FUNDS BE UNBLOCKED BY USG. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS OF FONMIN INDICATE GOJ ALSO HAS PLIGHT OF VIETNAMESE UPPERMOST IN ITS MIND WITH REGARD TO THIS ISSUE. UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE WE WILL PURSUE COURSE OF REACHING GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT WITH GOJ THAT UNBLOCKED FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING DEBTS AND TERMINATION OF DISCUSSION AND FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES RELATING TO REMAINING VIETNAMESE, CONSISTENT WITH HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVES MENTIONED IN REFTEL B. FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSIONS WE PLAN NOTIFY FNCB-AMMAN PER PARA 1 AND 2 REFTEL C TO NOTIFY FNCB NEW YORK TO REQUEST TREASURY LICENSE
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TO UNBLOCK RVN ACCOUNTS HERE.
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